in procurement of foodgrains. All controls on licensing, stock limits and movement restrictions on foodgrains have been removed by the Government *vide* a Central Order issued on 15.2.2002. The public agencies during the last marketing season purchased only 21.67% of the total production of rice and 23% of the total production of wheat in the country.

Price of levy sugar

245. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for lowering the price of levy sugar sold from Public Distribution System outlets to the levels of the other foodgrains available under this scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the subsidy burden, the representation has not been accepted.

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh

246. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many sugar mills are lying closed in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Mill-wise;

(c) the details of the action plan formulated by Government to revive the above mentioned sugar mills in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per the information available in the Directorate of Sugar, the nine sugar mills remained closed during the last five sugar seasons. In addition twelve sugar mills remained closed for some sugar seasons as indicated from the enclosed statement (*See* below).